

Appl. No. 09/990,548  
Amdt. dated October 28, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of August 6, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A meal tray assembly, comprising:

(a) a meal tray for being mounted for movement between a stowage position flush against a seat back surface and a lowered, horizontal use position;

(b) a latch access port extending through the meal tray from a top side to a bottom side thereof;

(c) a latch carried on the seat back for ~~cooperation with~~ extending through the latch access port in the meal tray for selective engagement with the bottom side of the meal tray, said latch being mounted for movement between:

Al (i) ~~a release position wherein the latch is extendable through the latch access port for permitting movement of the meal tray to and from the stowage position and the use position; and~~ a locking position wherein the latch engages the bottom side of the meal tray through the latch access port and thereby locks the meal tray in the stowage position against the surface; and

(ii) ~~a locking position wherein the latch locks the meal tray in the stowage position against the surface. a release position wherein the latch is releasable from engagement with the bottom side of the meal tray and the latch access port is sized to permit movement of the meal tray away from the latch into the use position.~~

2. (Original): A meal tray assembly according to claim 1, wherein the latch is carried by a latch plate secured to a rear-facing side of a forwardly-positioned passenger seat.

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3. (Original): A meal tray assembly according to claim 1, wherein the latch access port is recessed from the bottom side of the meal tray, and the latch when in its latching position is recessed below the bottom side of the meal tray for protecting the latch against disengagement during passenger movement past the stowed meal tray.

4. (Original): A meal tray assembly according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein:

a/ (a) said latch access port has a relatively long longitudinal dimension and a relatively narrow lateral dimension; and

(b) said latch has a relatively long longitudinal dimension and a relatively narrow lateral dimension configured for allowing the latch to extend through the latch access port when the longitudinal dimension of the latch access port and latch are aligned with each other and to interfere with and prevent movement of the meal tray from the stowed position when the longitudinal dimension of the latch is not aligned with the longitudinal dimension of the latch access port.

5. (Original): A meal tray assembly according to claim 4, wherein the latch access port is positioned adjacent a side edge of the meal tray adjacent to the user when in the use position.

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af 6. (Currently Amended): A meal tray assembly according to claim 5, including a  
grommet an annular detent plate having a flat surface and being carried by said latch plate  
for residing against and stabilizing an adjacent top surface of the meal tray in the stowage  
position.

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